

Massachusetts Urban & Community Forestry Program

The Citizen Forester

JUNE 2014

Private-Public Sectors and Academia Collaborate to Honor Arbor Day in Fall River

By **Emily Hamilton** and **Rick Harper** On the morning of Friday, April 25, Natalie and Viriato Teves left their home, like any other day, for their regular walk through nearby Maplewood Park. On this particular day, when they arrived, they got to see something unfold that was a little outside of their typical Friday morning routine. By 11 a.m., bucket trucks, a backhoe, chippers, tree trucks, and several tree crews were hard at work, pruning limbs, removing declining trees, and planting new ones to take their place. "I walk here every day, and I've never gotten to see an operation like this," said Natalie. And quite an operation it was, all in celebration of Arbor Day.

Since 1872, communities across the nation have celebrated Arbor Day. The first Arbor Day took place in Nebraska, where it is estimated that one million trees were planted across the state. A century later, the Arbor Day Foundation was founded, which then established the Tree City USA program. Tree City USA provides the framework for cities to achieve a healthy urban canopy. Fall River has been awarded Tree City status eight years in a row, including two years with the additional honor of a Growth Award. As an active Tree City, Fall River holds a ceremony every year to commemorate Arbor Day and

to provide a proclamation by the incumbent Mayor (William Flanagan).

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This year's celebration took place in Maplewood Park, where nine shade trees (Morton elm, zelkova, and honeylocust) were planted from the City's own tree farm. As these trees grow and develop, they will generate increasing benefits that will include carbon dioxide reduction, the production of oxygen, and the sequestration of carbon. They will also add beauty

and enhance property value, as they will in essence be a growing investment.

As with any successful celebration, it takes a team of committed cooperators to plan and implement. The Davey Tree Expert Company, University of Massachusetts, National Grid, and Lewis Tree were all on hand, making sure the new trees were being planted properly and that the existing trees were being pruned and well cared for.

Ed and Pauline Breault of the Maplewood Neighborhood reminisced about the trees while appreciating the efforts being donated that day. "When I was ten years old," Ed commented, "I carved my initials in that beech tree over there." He pointed at one of two large beeches that contribute significantly to the character of the park. That particular tree was not being pruned or removed on that day, but will need attention in the near future. Ed is hoping that another beech can be planted soon as a way of planning ahead for a replacement tree.

Because of the joint efforts of planting new trees and maintaining mature ones, the importance of planning for the future and protecting the City's valuable resource was demonstrated on Arbor Day. On this day, nearly \$20,000 in labor and equipment were donated by National Grid and Lewis Tree toward the pruning and removal of over-mature trees in Maplewood Park. The tree



Rick Harper and a local volunteer resident plant a tree at Maplewood Park on Arbor Day.

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crew members worked safely and efficiently, and left the park clean and safe when they were done. Furthermore, this event would not have taken place – nor would the nine new trees have been planted – if it was not for the coordination and collaboration between Davey Tree, UMass, and the City of Fall River.

There will continue to be growth in Fall River's urban tree canopy. With a state donation from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Fall River will be receiving a donation of an estimated 5,000 additional trees. The City's Tree Farm on Bay Street will continue to provide a supply of local trees for the community for years to come. Residents are encouraged to request a free tree for as long as supplies last. Anyone in the Maplewood or Sandy Beach neighborhoods may go on-line to www.frstpp.org, residents in all other neighborhoods should call the Mayor's office at 508-676-0324 to request a tree.

Emily Hamilton is a Consulting Urban Forester with Davey Resource Group, and **Rick Harper** is the Extension Assistant Professor in the UMass Department of Environmental Conservation.



City of Fall River Tree Department employee Joe Oliveira helps dispose of the estimated 85-year-old red maple that needed removal. Decay can be seen on the interior of the felled trunk.



Lewis Tree's Certified Arborist, Scott Fletcher, uses a bucket truck and advanced rigging system to safely fell a tree one branch at a time.

DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants

Deadline November 1

It's not too early to start planning for the next round of our Challenge Grant program.

Challenge grants are **50-50 matching grants** (75-25 for environmental justice projects) to municipalities and non-profit groups in Massachusetts communities of **all sizes** for the purpose of building local capacity for excellent urban and community forestry at the local and regional level.

The USDA Forest Service provides funding for the grant program, and DCR administers the grants with guidance from the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association. The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program assists communities and nonprofit groups in their efforts to protect and manage community trees and forest ecosystems, with the ultimate aim of improving the environment and enhancing the livability of all of Massachusetts's communities.

For more information on the Challenge Grants (including our NSTAR Go Green grants and National Grid Partnership Grants) go to the [DCR website](http://www.dcr.state.ma.us) or contact Julie Coop at 617-626-1468 or julie.coop@state.ma.us or Mollie Freilicher 413-577-2966 or mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us.

Species Spotlight—Cucumbertree, *Magnolia acuminata*

By **Mollie Freilicher**
MA-DCR
Community Action Forester

Cucumbertree (or cucumber magnolia) is a large tree of the Appalachians, occurring naturally from southwestern New York, south to Georgia (with disjunct native populations throughout the south-east and south), west to Arkansas (spotty), and north to

southern Ontario (where the tree is listed as endangered). In the United States, cucumbertree is on state endangered species lists in Florida and Indiana. Cucumbertree is hardy in the warmer parts of zone three to zone eight. In the wild, it reaches

heights of 60-80 feet, with a straight trunk and comparable spread. In youth, the form of cucumbertree is pyramidal. As the tree matures, the form becomes more oval or rounded, with spreading branches.

Leaves of cucumbertree are five to ten inches long, alternate, simple and elliptic to ovate, with smooth margins that are often wavy. Leaves are dark

green above and paler and pubescent on the underside. Fall color is a dull yellow or brown, but leaves often abscise when they are still green. The buds of cucumbertree are silvery with silky hairs. The terminal bud can be nearly an inch long, while lateral buds are smaller. Lateral buds sit in a U-shaped leaf scar. The flowers of cucumbertree are greenish-yellow, two and

one-half to three inches long and bloom in May to June. It can be

difficult to see the flowers as they are typically high in the canopy and appear after the leaves. The fruit of cucumbertree is a cone-like, two to three-inch long aggregate of follicles, pinkish-red in color. The aggregate fruit is initially green and resembles a cucumber, hence the common name "cucumbertree." When trees are young, the bark is smooth and gray, but as trees age, the bark becomes browner, with furrows and flaky flat portions.

Birds and small mammals eat the seeds and fruit, and many insects, including beetles, help pollinate the flowers, but the trees generally do not have significant wildlife value.

There are many uses for the wood, and it is often available in the Appalachians as "yellow-poplar." Some uses of the wood include furniture, venetian blinds, siding, trim, doors, and boxes. The wood is similar to that of tuliptree, but is stronger and heavier. While scale insects can

occasionally be a problem, cucumbertree is relatively free of insect pests and diseases and makes a great addition to large areas such as parks, golf courses, and other maintained or naturalized areas that afford a lot of space for the tree to reach its full potential.



Photos: Form: Wikipedia; Leaf, bud, bark, flower: Virginia Tech; Fruit: University of Guelph

THE CITIZEN FORESTER

Growing on Trees

Communicating with Urban Forestry Volunteers

Free Webcast

Thursday, June 19, 2014

12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. (EST)

Join us for the second of four broadcasts, as Lori Brewer, Senior Extension Associate in the Horticulture Department at Cornell University, will introduce and discuss working with volunteer-based committees, groups, and organizations in the context of urban forestry and community greening activities. Details will include building successful teams, carrying out successful programs, and insights into the motives that are often behind individuals' reasons for volunteering. Go to: www.joinwebinar.com (and input the code #517390287)

This broadcast is free and will offer the opportunity for arborists to earn 1.0 ISA CEU and 0.5 MCA credit.

Sponsored by the UMass Department of Environmental Conservation, the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association, the University of Massachusetts Extension, and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation.

Keep an Eye Out For Invasive Forest Pests

by Stacy Kilb

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources is encouraging everyone to check trees for signs of invasive forest pests. Tree-killing insects like Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) are a serious threat to forest ecosystems across Massachusetts. "Early detection of Asian longhorned beetle or emerald ash borer can make all the difference in preventing these forest pests from getting established in a new area. Now is a great time to get out there and inspect trees, because the weather is nice, but you can still see tree limbs because the leaves still haven't completely unfurled," says Jennifer Forman Orth of the Mass. Department of Agricultural Resources. "We're asking everyone to take just ten to check the trees in their neighborhood, local park, or forest, and to report any suspicious tree damage." *Seen in the Ecological Landscape Alliance newsletter.*



Emerald Ash Borer Tip

Are you seeing unusual woodpecker activity on ash trees? Woodpecker damage can be a good indication of an infestation of EAB as woodpeckers peck their way into the bark to consume larvae and pupa. As the woodpeckers forage, they chip away layers of the outer bark, leaving a "blonde" patch. This "blonding" can be visible from far away, both in highly foraged trees (above left) or trees lesser-foraged trees (above right). Also look for the small, dark holes in the blonde bark where a woodpecker's beak has pierced through the bark to reach a larva or pupa. Note that woodpeckers may not be abundant in all areas, such as downtown city centers and industrial areas. For more information on identifying EAB damage, go to <http://massnrc.org/pests/>.

Growing on Trees

Tree Campus USA Webcast

When: July 16, 2014, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (EST)

Where: Online (Check back for webinar connection information)

Cost: Free

Target Audience: Facilities personnel and other interested faculty and staff from colleges and universities in Massachusetts.

Presenters: Arbor Day Foundation, DCR Urban and Community Forestry, and representatives from the College of the Holy Cross

Goals of the webcast:

- Learn how Tree Campus USA recognition can help your campus build a high-impact campus forestry program and meet campus sustainability goals
- Learn about the Tree Campus USA standards
- Hear a case study on a Massachusetts college and their experience becoming a Tree Campus USA and the benefits they have observed from their participation
- Hear about support the DCR Urban and Community Forestry program can offer your campus through the application process
- Have your questions answered by staff from the Arbor Day Foundation, DCR Urban and Community Forestry, and the College of the Holy Cross

Tree Campus USA is a free, national program created in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation, and sponsored by Toyota, to honor colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and for engaging staff and students in conservation goals. Hundreds of colleges and universities, nationwide, have achieved the title by meeting the five standards of Tree Campus USA: maintaining a tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance, and student service-learning project.

For more information on the Tree Campus USA program, go to: <https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecampususa/>

Special Thank You to Mickman Brothers



This spring, [Mickman Brothers](#), a Minnesota-based landscape company, donated 200 white fir seedlings to DCR for distribution at events

around Arbor Day. One of the company's offerings is wreaths for fundraising, and as a way to give back, the company is striving to work with each state, nationwide, to make donations, so that conifers can be planted. Here in Massachusetts, we gave seedlings away in Avon for their Arbor Day, as part of DCR Park Serve, and at the eradication ceremony for Asian Longhorned Beetle in Boston. Thank you Mickman Brothers!



Growing on Trees

From UMass Extension

Part I: Inland Wetland Plant Identification

Thursday, June 5, 2014, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This introduction to inland wetland plant identification begins with an overview of the major characteristics of woody and non-woody vegetation used for identification in most plant keys. Guided exercises will be used in a classroom/laboratory setting to practice keying out plant specimens collected from local wetland sources. An afternoon field trip to a local wetland will allow an opportunity to practice identification skills in a natural setting. Related topics such as plant adaptations to wetland hydrology and the concept of “hydrophytic” vegetation will also be discussed.

REQUIRED TEXT: *Field Guide to Nontidal Wetland Plants*, by Ralph W. Tiner, Jr.

Additional cost: \$25 for text. (Please indicate when registering, if you wish to purchase a copy of this field guide.)

Part II: Identifying Wetland Soils

Thursday, June 19, 2014, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Participants will be introduced to some of the fundamental characteristics of soils that are used to identify hydric (wetland) soils in the field, including soil texture, color, horizon type, and redoximorphic features. The afternoon will include a field trip to a local wetland, where participants will examine plants and soils along a wetland/nonwetland gradient. Plant communities will be used to locate transitional wetland-upland areas in the landscape for further investigation of their soil characteristics. Participants should have taken Part I of this series or be able to identify wetland vegetation (by permission of instructor).

COST: \$100/EACH, includes instructional materials (except textbook), morning break, and parking (lunch is on your own).

If registering for both sessions, total cost: \$190. Pre-registration required, as space is limited.

Broadleaf Weed Identification Workshop

June 10, 2014, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: French Hall, UMass Amherst

Correct weed identification is an important first step in the development of an effective weed management program. This is a more in-depth class, using a classroom presentation, potted weed herbarium, and weed walk to help participants enhance their broadleaf weed identification skills. Feel free to bring a weed or two to identify. Workshop held rain or shine (lunch not provided). Grassy Weed Identification will be offered next in 2015. Cost \$95/person (preregistration required, space is limited).

Five pesticide contact hours for categories 36, 37 and Applicators License available.

Association credits: 1 MCA, 1 MCH, 2 MCLP, and 4 AOLCP credits available.

For a registration form or to register online using a credit card, go to <http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/> or contact the UMass Extension Landscape, Nursery & Urban Forestry Program at (413) 545-0895 or eweeks@umext.umass.edu.

We do our best to ensure that listings are accurate, but please check with program organizers for the most up-to-date information.

Growing on Trees

Climate Change

Tree-of-Heaven Is No Angel

by ecoRI News staff

A team of researchers led by a University of Rhode Island (URI) professor has completed a five-year study of the Appalachian Trail and developed a satellite-based system for monitoring and forecasting ecological conditions along the trail. One of its initial conclusions is that the invasive species tree-of-heaven is expected to expand northward into New England because of climate change. Yeqiao Wang, a URI professor of terrestrial remote sensing, said his team's research combining satellite-based data with ground-based ecological monitoring will be useful in the management of the lands along the Appalachian Trail. "But our tools aren't just about managing the trail; it's about the entire eastern United States," he said. "We study the trail as a representative megatranssect to reflect the ecological conditions of the eastern U.S."

Tree-of-heaven is expected to spread into New England as the climate warms. In a paper published recently in the journal *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, Wang and URI colleagues Peter August and John Clark demonstrate the use of the new monitoring system by focusing on the current status and predicted expansion of tree-of-heaven, a problematic invasive species that was introduced to the United States in 1784 for ornamental planting.

Native to China, the tree has been found to suppress native species and disperse widely by releasing vast quantities of airborne seeds that colonize gaps in forest canopies.

The study found tree-of-heaven populations at 136 out of 4,000 monitoring plots established by the U.S. Forest Service along the Appalachian Trail, mostly in the trail's central portion in Virginia but also in smaller numbers as far south as North Carolina and as far north as New York. None were found in New England. **Read the full article in [EcoRI News](#).** Seen in the newsletter of the Ecological Landscape Alliance.

Weathering The Storm: Boston's Future Climate

June 9, 2014

Reception 5:30 p.m.; panel 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, Wimberly Theatre
527 Tremont Street, Boston

What will climate change mean for Boston and other coastal cities? How can we adapt to the impacts of climate change, even as we work to mitigate greenhouse gases emissions in the future? How can New England be more resilient in the face of sea level rise and stronger storms?

Speakers will include: [Adam Freed](#) of The Nature Conservancy; Vivien Li, president of the [Boston Harbor Association](#); Brian Swett of the [City of Boston](#); and [Vicki Arroyo](#) of the Georgetown Climate Center.

Cost: \$25.00

Tickets are available [here](#)

National Climate Assessment

On May 6, the federal government released the Third National Climate Assessment (NCA), a comprehensive examination of peer-reviewed science on climate change impacts in the United States. The NCA echoes the findings of the latest reports from the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change, which state with high certainty that emissions from human activities are causing global climate change. The NCA reveals that climate change is already impacting Americans across the country, and its effects are predominantly negative. "For a long time we have perceived climate change as an issue that's distant, affecting just polar bears or something that matters to our kids," commented Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist, professor at Texas Tech University, and an author of the NCA. "This shows it's not just in the future; it matters today. Many people are feeling the effects."

Learn more: [Visit the NCA Report Website](#) (Seen in the *Northeast Climate Science Center Newsletter*)

Growing on Trees

Arbor Days in Massachusetts



State and local officials from the City of Worcester celebrate Arbor Day with a tree planting at North High School, Worcester.



Staff from the USDA, DCR, and Worcester Tree Initiative pose after a day of service in Dodge Park, Worcester.



One of two seedlings from a ginkgo tree that survived the atomic bomb blast in Hiroshima, presented at the Avon Arbor Day. The two seedlings got the royal treatment on their Japan Airlines flight from Tokyo and will be held at the Arnold Arboretum for a year before their final planting in Avon. Town Administrator, Mike McCue, worked with Green Legacy Hiroshima (a program of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Asian Network of Trust) to bring the seedlings to Avon. (See "News," next page.)



Deputy Consul General, Nobuyuki Watanabe, from the Consulate-General of Japan in Boston speaks to the crowd in Avon, inviting them to Hiroshima to the Shukkeien Garden where the parent tree to the ginkgo seedlings is found. (See "News" for more information.)

Photo by Janet Landry-Borden

News



Compact Orchards Growing in Greater Boston

By Maria Karagianis

Boston neighborhoods like Dorchester and Roxbury, with their farmhouses, fields, and orchards, were known for producing some of the tastiest fruit in 19th-century America, including the famous Roxbury russet apple, still prized for taste and disease-resistance. Today, with the fresh emphasis on local food and sustainability, experts say they are seeing a renewed interest in planting backyard orchards. For an investment of about \$400 for a 10-tree orchard and a little time, urban and suburban dwellers can discover the joys of growing their own fruit — even in small backyards. Pamela Thompson, head of programs at the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain, says the trend is being fueled by the emergence of new dwarf varieties of apples and the notion that compact orchards not only produce fruit, but can also provide a layer of privacy between homes in denser neighborhoods. Read the full story in [The Boston Globe](#). (Thank you, Russ Cohen for passing along this article.)

A-bomb Survivors from Japan Take Root in Avon

May 13, 2014—The desire of a town administrator and avid gardener to add a special touch to a town's Arbor Day celebration this spring blossomed into an international effort to deliver and plant tender seedlings from halfway around the globe. These are not just any shade trees, however. The seedlings unveiled at a special event in Avon on May 9 are a species of *Ginkgo biloba* that not only can withstand road salt and vehicle emissions but actually survived the 1945 atomic bomb blast in Hiroshima, Japan. Read the full story at the [Massachusetts Municipal Association](#).

Photo by: Georgia Sparling



Outreach Service Forester Sean Mahoney demonstrates the use of the portable sawmill.

For New Bedford's Chance Perks, Every Day is Arbor Day

May 11, 2014—Way up in the woods of North Dartmouth, almost to the Freetown line, sits the High Hill Reservoir. The massive holding pit for the city of New Bedford's drinking water is a tribute to the wisdom of our forefathers, according to Chance Perks, the city's new 26-year-old arborist. Because from High Hill, that potable water flows downhill to serve the needs of 100,000 New Bedford residents. And it flows downhill largely without artificial energy all the way to Clark's Point at the tip of the South End peninsula. Read the complete article at [southcoasttoday.com](#).

Arborist Cares for Springside Trees

By Susan Guerrero

May 1, 2014— If the trees throughout Springside Park (Pittsfield) could talk, they'd probably say Robert L. Pre-sutti is a good guy to have around. After all, as the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteer coordinator for the park, he's in charge of keeping trees healthy and expanding the collection. In early April, Pre-sutti took an examination he'd been studying for for at least a year and achieved the highest level of certification in the arboriculture profession within Massachusetts. That's quite an achievement. As far as he knows, he's the only certified arborist in Pittsfield, although there are three others in the Berkshires. Read the full story at [The Pittsfield Gazette](#).

Cut Trees Get Second Life at Old Colony

Rochester — Why take the kids to the sawmill, when you can take the sawmill to the kids?

On Friday morning, Department of Conservation and Recreation Outreach Service Forester Sean Mahoney brought the state's portable sawmill to Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical School to demonstrate the process of turning a log into lumber. A selection of trees from Rochester Town Forest and the adjacent forest owned by Old Colony were cut down in January to make way for new growth. At a forum held last November, residents questioned the "forest stewardship plan" created by Phil Benjamin, of Benjamin Forestry Services, Inc. Benjamin said the plan was scaled back after hearing concerns from townspeople, but the purpose was always to "thoughtfully" cut down some chosen trees to make way for more light in the forest and consequently for new growth. Read the full story and see a photo of the sawmill at [Sippican Week](#).

On the Horizon

- June 4** Tree City USA Award Ceremony and Luncheon, Andover, MA
- June 6** ISA Exam, University of Maine, Orono, www.newenglandisa.org
- June 6-7** SRT Workshop, Tree Care Industry Association, Bristol, RI, www.tcia.org
- June 14** [National Get Outdoors Day](#) (Two sites in MA!)
- June 19** Urban Forestry Today Webinar, <http://www.joinwebinar.com/>
- July 8** Urban Wood Utilization Webcast, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/werc/>
- July 16** DCR Webcast: Tree Campus USA in Massachusetts: How and Why your College or University Should Participate (Sponsored by DCR and the Arbor Day Foundation. Stay tuned for details.)
- July 22** Bucket Truck Safe Operations, Amherst, www.masstreewardens.org
- July 24** Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association Summer Trade Show, Deerfield, MA, www.mnla.com
- Aug 1** ISA Exam, University of Maine, Orono, ME www.newenglandisa.org
- Aug 2-6** ISA International Conference and Tradeshow, Milwaukee, WI, www.isa-arbor.com
- Sept 15-17** Precision Felling, Chainsaw Safety and Handling, ArborMaster, Martha's Vineyard, www.arbormaster.com
- Sept 18-19** Tree Climbing Methods, Work Positioning Best Practice, ArborMaster, Martha's Vineyard, www.arbormaster.com
- Sept 23** MA Arborists Association Dinner Meeting, Framingham, www.massarbor.org
- Sept 28-30** New England ISA – 48th Annual Conference and Tradeshow, Burlington, VT, www.newenglandisa.org
- Oct 1** **Deadline for Intent to Apply:** [Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants](#)
- Oct 2** PDS Chainsaw Safety, Mass. Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Assoc., www.masstreewardens.org
- Oct 3** Massachusetts Certified Arborist Exam, www.massarbor.org
- Oct 3-5** Women's Tree Climbing Workshop-Level II, Petersham, www.newenglandisa.org
- Oct 21** MA Arborist Association Safety Saves Seminar, Wellesley, www.massarbor.org
- Oct 24-25** DCR Tree Steward Training, Petersham, MA

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If you have a topic you'd like to see covered or want to submit an item to **The Citizen Forester** (article, photo, event listing, etc.), please contact **Mollie Freilicher** or click [here](#).

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